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In the specimens of *Ludwigia palustris*, dried to exhibit with this communication to the academy, a single capsule only, cut across for examination, projected the seed into his face while the capsule was being examined with a lens, indicating a projecting power not before known to exist in the species.—T. M.

**The Square Bamboo.**—Some of our readers may remember an article in *Nature*, for August 27, 1885, giving some account of the square-stemmed bamboo, which has recently been brought to light by Dr. Macgowan, who sent a notice of it, and also some living plants, to Kew. It appears to be a veritable species and not a monstrosity. Most of what is known about it is recorded by Dr. Macgowan, a medical missionary who has long lived in China, in the *Chinese Recorder*, April, 1885 and 1886. "It grows wild in the north-eastern portion of Yunnan, on the sequestered mountains." Dr. Macgowan last summer sent a beautiful cane made of it, with silver mounting, on which the name of Gray is inscribed in Chinese characters, and the interesting present reached the botanist to whom it was presented on the morning of his seventy-sixth birthday.

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## EDITORIAL.

THE BOTANICAL GAZETTE extends its best wishes to botanists for the new year and expects to record a year of unusual activity among American botanists. It is a time for good resolutions, and botanists should not be behind in this matter. The GAZETTE has made more good resolutions than ever before, but to carry them all out must depend in a large measure upon the hearty co-operation of fellow workers. The various associations of this country and our botanical periodicals have brought us together in a compactness of organization and friendliness of feeling that is the promise of great things. The resolution we would like to have each botanist make with the new year is to do some good work and see to it that none of it goes unrecorded. Our various departments furnish ample room for all forms of communication, large or small, formal or informal, and we want botanists to use them. We will try to keep our readers abreast of the work in this and other countries, but we want their co-operation in every direction. We would call attention to the department of "Notes and News," and ask all botanists to send us any unpublished scraps of information they may meet concerning the work or movements of botanists. Among "Open Letters" we would give place to any expressions of opinion, or any discussion that may be of general interest. In short, we welcome all botanists to all departments of the GAZETTE, excepting the editorial, and even that can be freely discussed in "Open Letters." It is hardly necessary to add that all departments of botany must feel absolute freedom in applying for space, and no one need complain of a failure to obtain a reasonable hearing.